

WHILE THE LORD TARRIED...

C. Gordon Wolcott - April 1982

While the Bridegroom tarried, they all began nodding their heads and fell asleep. (Matt. 5:5)

With the passing of time, it has become evident that April 4, 1982, did not feature the removal of the firstfruits of all of Christendom to the Throne of God. Among some of us, there had been great anticipation; among others there had been doubt concerning this timing. Were the doubters the prophets of God? Were the fervently anticipating ones false prophets? Should they now feel devastated? No, no and no!

All events and actions transpire because they fit into God's plan for training man. Nothing happens by chance; He is Lord. He plans and arranges - and it takes place exactly as planned - and precisely on schedule. The many impelling indicators pointing toward the April 4 day were intended to be seen and date-associated. That should be obvious. The Lord did this, knowing there would be doubters and knowing the predictions made would not be fulfilled - as expected. Those so predicting were doing a service for God. Therefore, those who were willing to proclaim what they saw, as best they understood it, should not now feel devastated - even though Jonah did. (Jonah 4:1)

We are being trained to become priests. Every priest's service should be to God alone, serving His interests, and not becoming affected by either man's desires or views. (Ex. 19:6, Rev. 1:6) Undoubtedly, we will see and hear from the same priests-in-training on the same subject again, perhaps even a few more, proclaiming their expectations and the reason for them - as and when their understanding is quickened during the months ahead. It is their duty, if they will serve the living

God. And undoubtedly, there will be more in disagreement as well. Always the Lord carries on His separating and classifying process, screening the active from the passive.

In forecasting the start-up of the Lord's new work on April 4, again it appears something in His work patterns was inadvertently overlooked. That is easy to do as long as mankind has an immaturity in understanding God's plan in the wholeness of His Word. But why did the Lord just stand by, permitting it - even aiding and abetting by multiplied signs and wonders? He could easily have spoken a word to His most dedicated servants. He has promised never to do anything without first showing what it will be through His servants. (Amos 3:7) What will He do now- after the many and striking recent signs? Into what should we now be directing our attention and concentration? All that He does is with purpose, and He had purpose in all that pointed to April 4.

What was and what is His purpose now as we enter this next time around? What is His intended benefit from the recent exercise for all who would love Him? The Lord's program for man is to educate him into life unending and strengthen him in it through testing.

Education: Enlightened understanding brings repentance of whatever lack in diligence there might have been in following through on the Lord's work among His people. If you did exercise yourself to understand and then published what you saw He was doing, and yet were unsuccessful in some measure - still you tried and that was useful learning. But if you did not make special effort to understand and proclaim, what might be His verdict - and yours?

Testing: An important principle to be recognized by all sincere children of God is this: Never believe any teaching you hear or read, and act on it - unless it is in accord with the whole Word of God. A decision to accept or reject should be associated with considerable work in the Word, and with much thought and prayer. In evaluating the April 4 date, was your leaning based on faith in man's word, or on his feelings (or even your own), or on the Law and the Testimony? (Isa. 8:20)

During the past millennia, has the work of the Lord been continuously on schedule? Is He still on schedule, after April 4? If so, what is it? He has told man he must be ready, for the Lord's appearance will be in an hour such as man thinks not - can not imagine. (Matt.24:44) What is implied in your making yourself ready, if not your familiarizing yourself with what the Lord is doing - and fitting yourself within that?

Historically and today, it has been the practice and habit of too many believers to see themselves differently that the Lord sees them. Too many are almost unconcerned about their state of readiness - because "I am in the everlasting arms of Jesus." Far too many see themselves "adequate in Jesus," having created a magic mirror to reflect only what they would like to see in themselves - a false front. A false front tends to develop a false prophet - especially to one's self. It is contrived without serious thought and is actually dishonest. For anyone honestly seeking to understand where he is in the Lord's plan and where the Lord is in His schedule, there is no valid excuse for letting another do his seeing for him. Anything else than seeing for one's self speaks of darkness, the children of darkness and ultimate anguish.

Look now to the Parable of the Ten Virgins. As with so much of Scripture, there is the short term and intense final fulfillment - about which we have been offered much teaching. But there is also a somewhat longer term application. In this longer term outworking, the notice of expectation of the Bridegroom's drawing near did go out, exactly according to His plan. Man, in his own wisdom, could not have exclusively devised and scheduled all the interweaving details of the multiplied dramas, interlocking with the Scripture patterns upon which the April 4 pronouncements were based. Those who utilized the dramas to proclaim the truth of His approach did what they were commissioned to do - in service to the Lord. Those who disclaimed the dramas did what they could be expected to do. That is not to say there were no conscientious disclaimers - they were. Nevertheless, backing off is easier than risking one's reputation on the line.

Then after the notification, there were a few months of impatient waiting and wondering. Here and there, a few took a little action to refine their lives, but for

most, it was waiting and wondering. At length came the understanding that April 4 was too early, and with it, considerable apathy, passivity and sleep. but it is while men sleep that the Bridegroom comes! Some barely pass the faithfulness test - even though virgins. Therefore, we should recognize that we are still in the time of His coming - although it is not in 1982.

So what can we do now? We can investigate the balance in attitude. Is there balance? What is there on each side, making the balance? Are there negative emotional reactions? Is short term expediency being rationalized? Or is there an understanding that the Lord arranged this development as a needed lesson? What grade have you earned in this test? Do you reflect a "ho-hum, here we go again?" Or are you praying, Lord, help me to do more and do better from now on?

What was overlooked in the predictions? Why did the Lord not fill in what was lacking? He did say He would come during darkness and sleep. What bearing does that statement have on your reactions to the almost uneventful passing of April 4? Are we not called to become children of light and awake? What does the Lord see in us indicating we are not ready and do not clearly hear His message?

What will you now do to use your time and tools more effectively, as a result of missing this year? Surely He will come when His 144,000 are ready for Him. The tools to be used more effectively are thoughts, emotions, physical abilities, contacts with others, material resources, and hopefully not last - God's Word.

April 4, 1982, has passed without the Manchild being lifted up to God's Throne, but we are not now to sit around and wait for the next suggested date on which we can then chew - or eschew! There is that world-wid drama yet to be fulfilled - and soon, but there is even a more important application for each today. The application most valuable to you is the personal one. Come and look.

In Rev. 12, we read of the woman bringing forth a Manchild who is to shepherd all nations in an inflexible rule. The Manchild is shortly caught up to God and His Throne. We know this Manchild group is the 144,000 of Rev. 14, because of their being described as the Firstfruits of the earth for God and the Lamb. When these Jewels are stolen out of the house of the Church, the woman is in shock at being

left behind. She had not prepared herself. Therefore, the woman of today's organized Church must flee into the wilderness, to a place of preparation and safety. She finally runs from the environmental control of the dragon into the wilderness, to a place of preparation and safety. She finally runs from the environmental control of the dragon into the wilderness, to a place of preparation and safety. She finally runs from the environmental control of the dragon into the wilderness setting of severe testing for faithfulness to Christ and His plan for living. Then the Lord continues the work of preparation for 1260 days (42 months or 3-1/2 years - the duration of the The Great Tribulation).

But before the newly repentant woman enters her ministry on earth with full power, the remnant of her seed must be raised up as her leaders. (Rev. 12:17) This group is younger in order of appearance than the group which will make up the enlightened Church, but is more advanced. Therefore, it is chosen to lead the faithful of the Church during the initial phase of The Great Tribulation period. Perhaps we can now see this woman as the woman of Matt. 13:33 who prepared three groups of people, the 100, 60, and 30 fold believers. (Matt. 13:23). But note the reference to leaven in all three groups, a residue and ferment of perverted truth in a whole loaf of righteousness.

After the Firstfruits Manchild has been taken up into power at the outset of The Great Tribulation, the final conflict in the heavens breaks out. Michael (meaning who is like God) and his angels defeat the dragon, Satan. Satan and his followers are cast out and down from the heaven - ultimately to the pit.

God has designed all things to conform to basic patterns. The pattern for the Church is the pattern to be applied to each person - to you. As the Church must do for herself, so must each man do for himself. Preservation, strength, the Kingdom of God and the power of His Christ are to be realized on earth when and because of the dragon being cast down, out the heaven. (Rev. 12:9-10)

You read very clearly that Satan has deceived the whole world - all its inhabitants. That statement means you have received much of what is not true. It also means you will continue to do so, until Lucifer has been cast out of the heaven in you which provides a haven for him. Unless you cast Satan out, by cementing yourself

to the purity of God's Word as it is in His mind, you go to Church and come away with more misleading information. The tares of the enemy are planted in the field of Christians. (Matt.13:25) Men go to secular institutions of learning and come away brainwashed to a still greater extent, unless... Our world society's entire way of life is that Babylon which draws into spiritual adulter, whether in the religious, economic, or political arenas. (Rev. 18:2-6)

In the Old Testament, the personal process was illustrated by the Israelites leaving Egypt for the Promised Land. Pharaoh typed Satan, and Egypt the world order. Egypt would have been a desert without the flow of the Nile's waters through its middle, sending irrigation threads into all the producing area. Yet the Nile winds like a serpent, nurturing tares as well as wheat. Satan was identified with the serpent in the ancient beginnings. The Sinai peninsula is shaped like a heart, but it is a stony-hard wilderness. The two arms of the Red Sea (the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba) are like the jaws of a dragon, enclosing Sinai. The Chosen People had to move away from Egypt and its Nile and go through the Sinai region, and then leave it before reaching the Promised Land. This was shown in the Old Testament for the instruction of our generation. (1Cor.10:11)

In the microcosm which is man, the brain is the heaven or uplifted part. There is the throne for the human spirit which comes from God. There the seat of judgment is centered, for weighing and evaluating. It is there that the swift messenger (angels) of thought and impulse fly. Ruling orders issue from the throne room to govern every one of the multitudinous functions in the microcosm. And it is in the thoughts and associated emotions that Satan operates. There is the heaven of the microcosm from which Satan must be ejected so that preservation, strength, the rule of God without competition and the power of His Christ can be established. The accuser and criticizer (the adversary) must be cast down, before the glory and power of Christ can fill the microcosm to overflowing.

How is Satan to be cast down? It is our nature to see error, fault, shortcomings and evil in others, because it pictures self in a favorable light in a flattering mirror.

In thoughts and emotions, and perhaps in spoken word, we become accusers of our brothers, day and night. Sometimes the accusations are well-founded; sometimes exaggerated in our imagination. Even when well-founded, we can attribute a wrong motive to the other person, becoming judges of other's inner workings. We err whenever we judge the motivation-justification. Only God can truly see inside a man. Christians are more inclined toward accusing the brothers than non-Christians, because they know better what ought to be. Downgrading others seems to help in up-grading the mirror-image of self.

Every thought and emotion, and response to those inclinations, must be brought captive to the pattern which is Christ's. God has granted to every believer the right and authority to cast out the demon thoughts and emotions - in the name (power) of Jesus. If they are so managed, there can be no problem of wrong physical responses. It is the Lord's firm position that you ultimately come into the stature of your Father - even if the process necessitates much disciplining. You are to grow up and secure your education with honors. When you have that training, He will then place you in charge of others to supervise their learning.

In the meantime, He is in full charge and will take complete care of every little detail. In the meantime, you are the problem - not the one you can accuse day and night. He wants you to pace yourself in His own footprints. Your work and assignment are so fantastic it calls for everything you have. This is the work of God as signed to you: that you believe into Him whom He has sent. Every moment of your time, the utmost energy you can muster, all that you have and all that you are, are required to achieve and to enter before the deadline!

Adam received Eve to wife, and she occasioned his exile, strenuous labors, perspiration, sickness,

sorrow and finally death. In the microcosmic correlation, your will is Adam and your imagination is Eve. The two are married. It is utterly impossible for you to let Eve make the decisions and set the policy with impunity. That is contrary to God's plan — and it is also unreasonable, leading to emotional excess. Even the imperfect medical science of today knows that certain emotions, such as anger, suspicion, jealousy, hatred, or even a domineering attitude, will eventually develop arthritis, gallstones and other ailments. Of course, there are additional causes as well. Our glands, and the cells of the body too, are intimately linked with our thinking and emotional patterns. Therefore, inhale no poisonous fumes from the pit. Eve did so when learning at Lucifer's feet. All of these combine to

wreck your health, ruin your fortune, and heap misery high upon you, placing you in abject serfdom to the Master of the Abyss.

_____ Kick out and cast down the accuser of our brothers. Jesus Christ has given the power. Then go to the blood of the Lord in order to take a fresh stand in righteousness. Take on the cleansing of His Word to maintain it. Use the Word of the Testimony; don't fracture it. Tell people of the perpetual joy in your heart. Speak to them of the power of Christ to actually transform lives through His work of absolute redemption and purchase, which He completed on Calvary for here and now. A part of your joy and faith rubs off. Also, your testimony itself develops an increased potential within to live for the glorification of Christ. Refuse to dwell on what is harmful, or even anything that bothers. (John 14:1) If it persistently comes back, command it in the name of Jesus Christ to return to the pit. "Lord Jesus, Take it away! It is your right; it is in your power. It is your duty to cast down such devils!

The power to enter into the Lord's Kingdom here and now comes through a "Manchild", born of the woman, but caught up to God. The term "man" shows it to be of the will or determination. But the growth and emergence is through the woman of faith. It is a mystic "body" or seed of Christ with — in the believer having it. That body is there, or you are none of His. The battle in the "heavenlies" (the realm of your thought and emotion) is won by Michael (he who is like God). The Michael who wins is to be you, by virtue of the "Manchild" begotten within.

Michael wins as and when you determine by the grace of God to become like Jesus Christ, and yourself rule your microcosmic kingdom with a rod of iron — no compromise; no bending of Truth. When bitterness, resentment, suspicion, criticism brood within, there is none of God's deep peace which is the fruit of His Kingdom for here and now.

_____ Without that deep peace, you are only close to His Kingdom — at the best. But when you commence to live in the serenity of His peace and then perpetually continue in it, you also find that your life becomes charmed. It is because Christ the Lord is in complete charge of your life. That brings absolute peace and joy. That is then a personal New Jerusalem above. Jesus commanded that, even under what might appear to be adverse circumstances of the moment, you should leap and shout for joy! He certainly should know what is of great importance. So hold this truth constantly in mind! With violence, seize the Kingdom of Joy for here and now. Cast out every assailing demon. Dump out the particle truths, untruths and wishful thinking. Continually and perpetually cast out and down the "dragon". Then you can and should shout and rejoice in

the increasing power and glory of God's Kingdom within. — having made yourself ready.

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